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ABSTRACT

Prepared by the State Department of Employment and Social Services (Research and Analysis Division) and the Rural Manpower Staff, this 1973 annual report provides a summary and review of the activities of Maryland's Rural Manpower Services Program. The report briefly gives: (1) a statement on the program's administrative organization and functions; (2) a review of the economic and employment trends in rural areas; (3) a description of the methods used in recruiting farm workers; and (4) an evaluation of the program. The attachments to the report give tabular data for farm trends, wage rates, and employment trends from 1969 to 1973; monthly agricultural employment trends for 1973; migrant seasonal farm workers recruited through Maryland clearance orders from 1963 to 1973; the interstate migrant housing by county for 1973; the 1973 crop acreage and production; and expected crop acreage and monthly agricultural employment for 1974. Also included are copies of the May 11, June 18, and July 3, 1973 Farm Labor Bulletin, a weekly publication which reports State crop and farm labor conditions. (NQ)

ED 097150

1973

RURAL MANPOWER REPORT

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MA 5-79

FOREWORD

Maryland's Annual Report on Rural Manpower was prepared by the State Department of Employment and Social Services, Research and Analysis Division with the assistance of the Rural Manpower Staff. The purpose of this report is to provide those persons interested with a summary and review of the activities of Maryland's Rural Manpower Service Program during 1973.

This report contains a statement on the administrative organization and the functions of the Rural Manpower Program a review of the economic and employment trends of Maryland's rural areas, a description of the methods used in recruiting farm workers and an evaluation of the 1973 Rural Manpower Program.

The cooperation and assistance given by individuals, organizations and other State agencies in compiling the data for this report are gratefully acknowledged.

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1973

ANNUAL RURAL MANPOWER REPORT

PART I. ANNUAL SUMMARY

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ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

Changes affecting the organizational structure of the Rural Manpower Program during the year were numerous. A considerable number of personnel positions were abolished among them the Farm Service Supervisor, the Rural Manpower Mobile Unit Supervisor and the three Area Farm Service Representatives. The program functions under the Employment Service Director's office with line supervision provided by Field Supervisors, Local Office Managers and the Rural Manpower Service-Chief. There are ten local office Farm Service Representatives (referred to as Rural Manpower Representatives in this report).

The objectives of the Rural Manpower Program were many. Finding jobs for the unemployed rural workers taking priority over the many others including providing job counseling, testing, job training and referrals to other Government services if necessary and making these services available to as many rural residents as possible. Special emphasis was directed toward contacting those residents (both the agricultural and the non-agricultural) not living within commuting distance of the local Employment Security Office. Serving the farmers as efficiently as possible continued to be a major objective of the Rural Manpower Program.

In order to carry out an effective Program statewide, area-wide and local pre-season meetings were conducted by the Rural Manpower Staff to acquaint new staff members with the purpose and objectives of the program, review the duties of the staff and develop a plan of action for the 1973 Program. To keep abreast of agricultural production changes, new industries in the areas and labor conditions staff members attended and participated in meetings of agricultural workers and employer groups, other government agencies, and community organizations. By gaining more knowledge of the problems of rural area residents the staff was able to gear it's program toward providing the services needed.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

The economy of the majority of rural counties in Maryland depends to a great extent on agriculture including dairy and animal farms, forestry and water related industries. With the exception of the rising retail prices, economic conditions were reported as favorable in all rural areas during 1973 with the number of business firms reported as closing operations far below the number of new businesses or business expansions. Residential and commerical developments continued to sprout up in rural areas, particularly on the Eastern Shore. Population growth of the rural areas surrounding the cities and small towns continued to increase with resulting expansion of local business and service industries to meet the demands. The increasing population consist mainly of people who commute to work in the large cities and the retired. The demands for additional workers, necessitated by local business expansions, are therefore being filled by workers from surrounding farms. The impact of the "energy crisis" was minor in most areas of Maryland by the end of 1973.

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Agricultural production continued to increase in spite of the decreasing number of farms and farm workers. Improvements in farm production techniques and farm machinery continue to increase per acre production. Market prices for all farm products increased during the year. The profits received by the farmers, although small, was indicative of favorable economic conditions.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Non-agricultural employment in the rural counties of Maryland was reported stable with slight increases in the majority of industries during 1973. Employment in building construction, retail trade and service industries showed steady increases as these industries were forced to expand to meet the demands of the increasing population in these areas. The reopening of many of the seafood firms, forced to shut-down in 1972 as a result of damages brought by tropical storm Agnes, also gave new impetus to employment in these areas. The average unemployment rate reported by the rural counties during 1973 showed a decreasing trend from the previous year, although remaining slightly higher than that reported by the predominantly urban counties.

Employment of farm workers continued to vary, with peak employment dropping 2,000 to ~~38,000~~ during the year while average monthly employment ~~remained the same as the previous year's revised average of 31,000~~. The number of farm families was unchanged from last year's revised monthly average of 24,000. The monthly average employment of hired farm workers totaling ~~7,000~~ (see table #II). The average monthly employment of regular or year-round farm workers increased ~~800~~ to an average of ~~3,900~~ while seasonal farm workers dropped 600 to an average of 3,100.

The scarcity of regular hired farm workers continued prominant during 1973. The absorbtion of skilled farm workers by the gradual growth of non-agricultural industries in rural areas have depleted the supply of skilled farm workers to such an extent that openings for these workers remained unfilled throughout the year in several of the agricultural areas. The utilization of farm machines has lessened the demand for unskilled farm labor. Occupations for which the greatest demands existed were farm managers, dairy farm hands, horse trainers and farm couples.

A peak of 8,000 seasonal farm workers was reported employed on Maryland farms during 1973, highest of the five year period 1969-1973 (see table #III). This increase results from a more comprehensive coverage of the Southern agricultural area during 1973. Local seasonal workers consisting of housewives and high school youth, augmented by unemployed and vacationing industrial workers and pensioners, totaled 6,700 at peak, with a monthly average of approximately 2,400 employed.

Average monthly employment of interstate migrant seasonal farm workers was approximately 700 during 1973 with peak employment totaling 1,800 (see table #III). The number of interstate migrant workers employed in Maryland fluctuates from year to year depending on the weather and crop conditions but have been on a general downward trend for several years. This decrease is a part of the general trend of all farm labor in Maryland. In recent years more rigid regulations of migrant housing and the mechanization of the harvest of several cropshave reduced the demands for migrant seasonal workers.

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SERVICES FOR RURAL PEOPLES

Maryland's Rural Manpower Program is moving steadily toward the concept of providing total employment services to that segment of the rural population that has not previously been within the local office service area. These services include job counseling, testing, interviewing, job referrals, job training and directing applicants to various government and community agencies as needed. Rural applicants job placements totaled more than 7800 in 1973. A total of 1622 rural applicants received counseling, 459 were tested and approximately 400 enrolled in government training classes. Farm workers found to be unemployed as a result of farm mechanization or new farm production methods were assisted in making the transition from farm jobs to non-agricultural jobs through testing and job referrals and locating transportation facilities to the new jobs if needed. Contacting these residents required a different approach. In addition to working with other government and community agencies the Rural Manpower Representatives visited rural area meeting places such as schools, churches and outlying business places to gain knowledge of those persons in the area who were in need of employment service or other assistance. These visits were limited by lack of sufficient Rural Manpower Staff during 1973. In addition to farms there are numerous farm related industries, textile companies, seafood and water related industries located in the rural counties. During the past year the Rural Manpower Program engulfed these industries and all others located in the area, and is currently attempting to serve these employers as efficiently as it is serving the farmers.

RURAL MANPOWER PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES FOR FARM WORKERS

The past two decades have seen much of Maryland's farm lands purchased by land developers for suburban growth of towns and shopping centers, industry and for highway and road construction. The reduction in farm land also brought about a reduction in skilled farm workers as these workers obtained more lucrative jobs in other industries located in the local towns. The scarcity of regular hired farm workers has become more acute each year although farmers, through use of farm machinery and new production methods, have been able to reduce their worker demands. A number of factors contribute to this shortage of farm workers. More attractive wages are offered by non-agricultural industries which are luring the skilled farm workers away from the farms and the low social profile of farm workers continues to cause the young and better educated farm residents to seek jobs in non-farm industries.

All available tools and media were used this year to promote agricultural employment and to recruit year-round skilled farm workers and local seasonal farm workers. Community leaders were contacted for suggestions, and full cooperation was obtained from local organizations. Summer recreational centers were asked to encourage youth to consider working on the farm during vacation and to promote agricultural work opportunities with parents with whom they come in contact. High school counselors cooperated, informing their students of farm job opportunities during summer vacation and as a career. Farm information posters were displayed in public buildings and radio and television spot announcements and local newspaper want ads were used to recruit farm workers during the year. In addition, a more extensive Rural Manpower visiting program was undertaken. Although curtailed by lack of personnel, a total of 2,731 visits were made to farmers. In spite of these efforts, the supply of regular hired farm workers was not sufficient to meet the demands of farmers and clearance orders were issued to neighboring states with negative results.

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Seasonal farm labor although decreasing in number was sufficient to meet the needs of the majority of growers. Seventy-six percent of seasonal farm employment was local consisting of housewives, unemployed industrial workers, high school students, pensioners and public assistance recipients. In addition to the recruitment methods mentioned previously, the rural local office maintained a file on part-time or seasonal workers from which many of the seasonal farm openings were filled. The Rural Manpower Representatives were assisted by sixteen Volunteer Farm Placement Representatives who were instrumental in keeping them informed of crop schedules and the supply and demand for workers enabling the Rural Manpower Staff to serve the farmers more efficiently.

A total of 1,446 interstate migrant workers was recruited in 1973, consisting of sixty-one crews made up of 176 families, 847 unattached males (which included 238 workers from Puerto Rico) and 100 unattached females. The total represents a decline of twenty percent from the 1972 total. In addition to the crews recruited by the Rural Manpower Office, there were eight free-wheeling crews consisting of 133 workers harvesting Maryland crops during the year. The bulk of migrant farm workers employed in Maryland make their homes in Florida, traveling north along the Eastern Seaboard during the spring and summer harvest season. These workers constitute an important part of the seasonal farm labor force in Maryland, providing much of the labor required in harvesting highly perishable vegetable and fruit crops.

Services for migrant farm workers varied in the different counties. However, all crews, upon arrival, reported to the local Employment Security Office where the Rural Manpower Representatives directed them to their employer. Crews were also given the location of other service organizations available to them if needed, such as shopping centers, churches, etc. In cooperation with the Rural Manpower Program such organizations as the County Health Departments, Boards of Education, Offices of Migrant Education, Migrant Seasonal Farm Workers Association, Shore-Up Inc. and various ministrial associations were active in carrying out programs designed to aid the migrant farm workers in Maryland. The County Health Departments inspected all migrant housing for compliance with regulations prior to occupancy. A total of 77 migrant labor camps were approved for occupancy during 1973. In addition, all clinical, medical and hospital services were made available to migrant workers when needed. School for migrant children up to age sixteen was made available through the cooperation of the Office of Migrant Education and the Board of Education of all counties employing large numbers of migrant workers. In addition to scholastic training the students received two or three meals per day and recreational activities. In several counties night school courses in welding, woodwork, sewing, cooking, etc. were offered migrant workers seventeen and older including bus service to and from the school. There were numerous day-care centers operated for migrant children too young to attend school. The centers were operated by Community Organizations, the Head Start Program, the Department of Social Services and various religious organizations. Area churches and church groups provided religious services and counseling for migrants as well as Bible classes and recreational facilities at the camps.

PUBLIC RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

During 1973 Rural Manpower Representatives used all available opportunities to make the public aware of the role of the Employment Service Office in helping

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to improve the economic conditions of the community through job development and increased employment. Staff members contacted and worked with as many rural oriented agencies and organizations as possible including county Community Action Agencies, county Extension Agents, veterans organizations, Welfare and Rehabilitation Services, county Board of Education, Offices of Migrant Education, the Governor's Commission on Migratory Labor, county Departments of Health, various religious groups, farm clubs and associations, farm workers' groups, schools and civic organizations. Some members of the Rural Manpower staff held membership in several of these organizations, and attended the regular meetings of other groups, accepting speaking commitments when possible.

Throughout the year Rural Manpower staff visited farmers keeping abreast of crop schedules and anticipated worker needs. They assisted them in securing farm labor when needed. At the same time they exchanged information on changes in agricultural production and market conditions.

Radio and television publicity in the form of spot announcements and personal interviews and local newspaper stories and feature articles on crop conditions and farm employment were released regularly for public information. Agricultural information was also disseminated through the weekly issues of the Farm Labor Bulletin. Areas with a surplus or shortage of seasonal farm labor were featured in the bulletin as well as the number and type of permanent farm job openings.

EVALUATION PROBLEMS, PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Rural Manpower Service Program had a successful year in spite of organization changes and a large turnover in Rural Manpower personnel. Staff members were being replaced and oriented throughout the year. This adversely affected the services rendered due to the time required for new personnel to become familiar with the duties and procedures. Some vacancies existed throughout the year and a large proportion of outreach activity had to be limited primarily to telephone use. With a full staff of experienced personnel it is anticipated that improvements will be possible in all rural manpower service activities in the future.

An acute shortage of seasonal harvest workers in the western fruit producing areas arose when migrant crews failed to respond to inter-state clearance orders or arrived extremely short of workers. When intensified recruitment of local workers failed to produce sufficient workers to meet demands, foreign workers were brought into the area under work contracts thus avoiding a second year of crop loss due to migrant worker shortage. Fluctuations in seasonal harvest labor demands, due to mechanization of several vegetable crops and the spasmodic maturing schedules of other crops during the harvest season, resulted in short periods of unemployment for crews in several areas. However, long periods of unemployment were avoided through the cooperation of county Rural Manpower staffs in re-routing workers from areas of no demand to areas of demand.

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Form MA 5-79A. Annual Rural Manpower Report --
Selected Data on Farm Placement Operations

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR - Manpower Administration ANNUAL RURAL MANPOWER REPORT SELECTED DATA ON FARM PLACEMENT OPERATIONS	STATE Maryland CALENDAR YEAR REPORTED December 31, 1973
SECTION A. DAY-HAUL ACTIVITIES AT POINTS OPERATED BY STATE AGENCY	
1. Towns with day-haul points.....	1
2. Number of day-haul points.....	4
3. Sum of days day-haul points operated during year.....	6
4. Total number of workers transported during year.....	300
SECTION B. SELECTED SERVICES TO SCHOOL-AGE WORKERS (under 22 years)	
5. Supervised camps operated for school-age workers.....	0
a. Placements in camps.....	0
6. Placements of school-age workers in supervised live-in farm homes.	4
SECTION C. SERVICES TO INDIANS LIVING ON RESERVATIONS	
7. Rendered by on-reservation local offices or at itinerant points	
a. Farm placements.....	N.A.
b. Applicant-holding acceptances.....	N.A.
8. Other farm placements of reservation Indians.....	N.A.
SECTION D. OTHER SELECTED DATA	
9. Number of local offices which held farm clinics.....	0
10. Sum of days on which farm clinics were held.....	0
11. Total number of local offices participating in formal community service programs.....	0
12. Peak number of volunteer farm placement representatives.....	16

SIGNATURE	TITLE

Form MA 5-79A Worksheet. Day-Haul Activities at Points Operated by State Agency

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR - Manpower Administration

DAY-HAUL ACTIVITIES AT POINTS OPERATED BY STATE AGENCY

STATE: Maryland

CALENDAR YEAR REPORTED: December 31, 1973

TOWN	DAY-HAUL POINTS		
	NUMBER	DAYS OPERATED DURING YEAR	WORKERS TRANSPORTED DURING YEAR
I	II	III	IV
Cambridge, Md.	4 (Youth only)	6	300 (Youth)

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TITLE

Form MA 5-79B. Annual Rural Manpower Report -- Composition of Interstate Farm Migrant Groups

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR - Manpower Administration

ANNUAL RURAL MANPOWER REPORT

COMPOSITION OF INTERSTATE FARM MIGRANT GROUPS

STATE: Maryland

CALENDAR YEAR REPORT: December 31, 1973

SECTION A. MIGRANT GROUP CONTACTS			SECTION B. REPORTING STATE'S RESIDENTS		SECTION C. GROUPS WORK IN REPORTING STATE	
TYPE	BY REPORTING STATE	WITH REPORTING STATE'S RESIDENTS	TYPE	NUMBER	TYPE	NUMBER
I	II	III	I	II	I	II
1. Total	61	0	2. Total persons	0	4. Families	176
a. Crew leaders	61	0	3. Total workers	0	5. Unattached males	847
b. Family heads	0	0			6. Unattached females	100
c. Other	0	0				

SECTION D. COMMENTS

SIGNATURE	TITLE

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Form MA 5-79C. Annual Rural Manpower Report -- Interstate Seasonal Agricultural Clearance Activities

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR - Manpower Administration ANNUAL RURAL MANPOWER REPORT INTERSTATE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES	STATE Maryland CALENDAR YEAR REPORTED December 31, 1973

ITEM	ORDERS		OPENINGS	
	EXTENDED (Section A) RECEIVED (Section B)	FILLED	EXTENDED (Section A) RECEIVED (Section B)	FILLED
I	II	III	IV	V
SECTION A. REPORTING STATE AS ORDER-HOLDING STATE				
Reporting State, TOTAL	69	61	2,260	1,451
Applicant-holding States Involved:				
Florida	45	42[1]	1,643	1,068[1]
Louisana	2	2	12	8
New Mexico	1	0	15	0
Ohio	2	0[1]	47	0[1]
Pennsylvania	1	0[1]	30	0[1]
Puerto Rico	8	8	262	206
South Carolina	1	1	25	25
Texas	9	8	226	144
SECTION B. REPORTING STATE AS APPLICANT-HOLDING STATE				
Reporting State, TOTAL	0	0	0	0
Order-holding States Involved:				

SECTION C. COMMENTS (Use reverse if needed)

[1] One order issued to Ohio and one issued to Pennsylvania were filled by crews from Florida and are included in Florida data.

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PART II. ATTACHMENTS TO REPORT

Table I

Maryland Farm Trends

1950-1973

Year	Number of Farms	Land in Farms (Acres)	Average Size of Farms (Acres)
1950	39,000	4,225,000	108
1955	32,000	4,050,000	126
1960	27,200	3,750,000	138
1965	23,000	3,500,000	152
1970	18,300	3,220,000	176
1971	18,000	3,190,000	177
1972	17,500	3,150,000	180
1973 (est.)	16,425	3,038,600	185

Table I-a

Maryland Agricultural Wage Rates

Hired Farm Workers 1969-1973

Year	Per Hour	Per Day	Per Week		Per Month	
			With Room & Board	Without Room & Board	With House	With Room & Board
1969	$1.48	$11.65	$51.75	$67.50	$266.00	$194.00
1970	1.56	11.90	55.75	71.00	266.25	181.25
1971	1.67	12.28	56.50	72.00	270.00	192.50
1972	1.71	12.70	57.75	78.00	271.00	210.00
1973	1.83	12.82	57.25	81.00	290.00	218.00

Table I-b

Maryland's Summary of 1973 Crop-Wage Findings
For Domestic Seasonal Farm Workers

Crop Activity	Crop-Wage Area	Date of Finding	Wage Findings	
			Local Workers	Interstate Workers
Asparagus harvest	Eastern Shore	5/21/73	No Finding-% of sample too small	$1.80 per hr. +$.07 per hour per lb. and $.15 per hr. bonuses
Early stringbean harvest	Eastern Shore	7/2/73	No Finding - all local labor	No Finding - all local labor
Cucumber harvest-Fresh Market	Eastern Shore	7/13/73	$.25 per bu.	No Finding-% of sample too small
Cucumber harvest-pickle	Eastern Shore	7/20/73	$.35 per 5/8 bu.	$.30 per 5/8 bu.
Tomato harvest-green	Eastern Shore	7/27/73	$.25 per 5/8 bu.	$.25 per 5/8 bu.
Tomato harvest-Red globe	Eastern Shore	8/17/73	$.20 per 5/8 bu.	$.20 per 5/8 bu.
Peach harvest	Western	8/18/73	No Finding - sample too small	No Finding - sample too small
Italian tomato harvest	Eastern Shore	9/15/73	No Finding-% of sample too small	$.20 per 5/8 bu.
Sweet potato harvest	Eastern Shore	10/5/73	$.25 per bu.	None employed
Apple harvest	Western	10/11/73	$.20 per bu. + $.05 per bu. bonus	$.20 per bu. + $.05 per bu. bonus

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Table II

Maryland Farm Workers

1969-1973

Year	Peak Employment	Average Monthly Employment			
		Total	Family Workers	Reg. Hired	Seasonal Hired
1969	43,000	31,900	23,800	3,900	4,200
1970	44,000	31,800	23,800	4,000	4,000
1971	41,000	31,600	24,000	4,000	3,600
1972[1/]	~~39,000~~ 41,000	31,000	24,000	3,300	3,700
1973	~~38,000~~ 39,000	~~31,000~~ 32,000	24,000	~~3,900~~ 5,200	3,100

1/ Revised

Table III

Peak Employment of Seasonal Farm Workers In Maryland 1969-1973

Year	Total	Local	Non-Local
1969	7,900	5,500	2,400
1970	7,200	4,700	2,500
1971	6,600	4,300	2,600
1972	6,600	5,000	1,600
1973	8,000	6,700	1,800

Maryland State - Seasonal Farm Workers

Average Monthly Employment 1969-1973

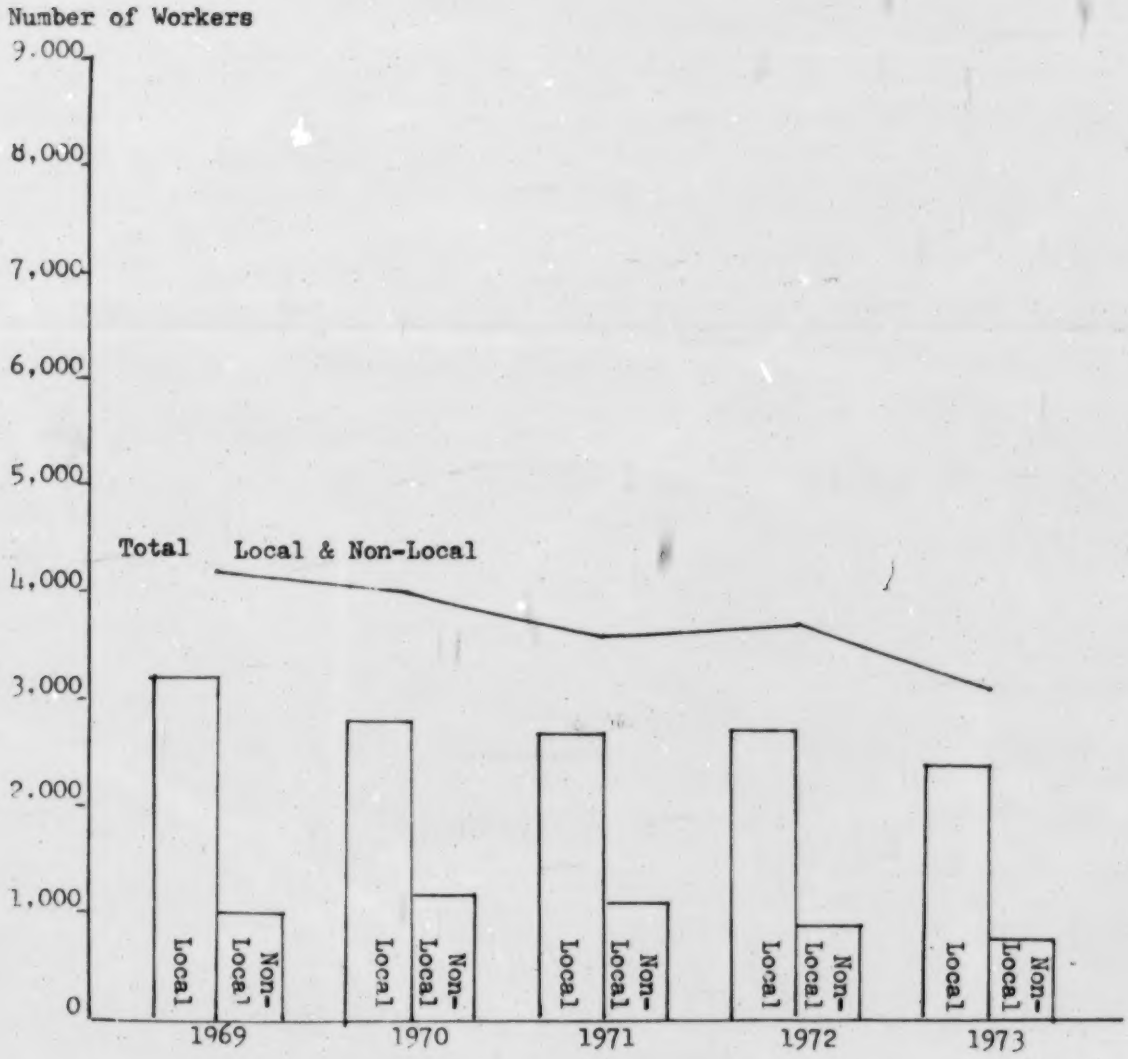

Table III-a

Puerto Rican Seasonal Farm Workers Employed

In Maryland 1969-1973

Year	Total	Contract	Non-Contract
1969	1,186	436	750
1970	775	275	500
1971	600	200	400
1972	805	155	650
1973	938	238	700

Table IV

Maryland Summary

Employment of Seasonal Hired Workers
In Agriculture and Agricultural Placements 1/
By Month, 1973

Period	Agricultural Employment					Total Agricultural Placements
	Total	Local	Intra-state	Inter-state	Puerto Rican 2/	
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
January	397	397	0	0	0	28
February	260	260	0	0	0	58
March	445	445	0	0	0	1232
April	551	460	0	91	61	80
May	1957	1146	0	811	132	156
June	2923	2061	0	862	78	434
July	3915	2929	0	986	74	505
August	4357	2552	0	1805	70	21465
September	6098	4975	0	1123	86	8534
October	2691	2214	0	477	98	3290
November	938	874	0	64	64	594
December	514	494	0	20	20	1034

1/ Seasonal hired workers employed on the last normal workday during the first half of the month. The placements are the totals for each month. Source of data is this Department's local office report.

2/ Includes Puerto Ricans under contract to Maryland employers. These, plus those used on leased land in Maryland but contracted through Delaware, are included in the interstate totals (column V).

Table IV-a

Eastern Shore Area 3-24-01

Employment of Seasonal Hired Workers In Agriculture and Agricultural Placements 1/ By Month, 1973

Period	Agricultural Employment					Total Agricultural Placements
	Total	Local	Intra-state	Inter-state	Puerto Rican 2/	
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
January	335	335	0	0	0	19
February	260	260	0	0	0	16
March	345	345	0	0	0	1201
April	478	411	0	67	47	38
May	1669	888	0	781	112	67
June	2530	1720	0	810	82	259
July	3404	2493	0	911	60	463
August	3520	1888	0	1632	53	21021
September	2147	1356	0	791	69	8514
October	1153	1005	0	148	83	3265
November	432	368	0	92	62	293
December	169	149	0	20	20	1015

1/ Seasonal hired workers employed on the last normal workday during the first half of the month. The placements are the totals for each month. Source of data is this Department's local office report.

2/ Includes Puerto Ricans under contract to Maryland employers. These, plus those used on leased land in Maryland but contracted through Delaware, are included in the interstate totals (column V).

Table IV-b

Southern Area 3-24-02

Employment of Seasonal Hired Workers
In Agriculture and Agricultural Placements 1/
By Month, 1973

Period	Agricultural Employment					Total Agricultural Placements
	Total	Local	Intra-state	Inter-State	Puerto Rican	
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
January	0	0	0	0	0	2
February	0	0	0	0	0	0
March	0	0	0	0	0	2
April	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	0	0	0	0	0	1
June	0	0	0	0	0	1
July	0	0	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0	0	2
September	3008	3008	0	0	0	5
October	832	832	0	0	0	0
November	390	390	0	0	0	1
December	325	325	0	0	0	2

1/ Seasonal hired workers employed on the last normal workday during the first half of the month. The placements are the totals for each month. Source of data is this Department's local office report.

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Table IV-c

Central Area 3-24-03

Employment of Seasonal Hired Workers
In Agriculture and Agricultural Placements 1/
By Month, 1973

Period	Agricultural Employment					Total Agricultural Placements
	Total	Local	Intra-state	Inter-state	Puerto Rican 2/	
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
January	62	62	0	0	0	5
February	0	0	0	0	0	24
March	0	0	0	0	0	22
April	73	49	0	24	14	39
May	193	163	0	30	20	33
June	333	281	0	52	16	56
July	436	361	0	75	14	40
August	697	607	0	88	17	41
September	603	516	0	87	17	12
October	374	297	0	77	15	24
November	71	71	0	0	0	49
December	20	20	0	0	0	14

1/ Seasonal hired workers employed on the last normal workday during the first half of the month. The placements are the totals for each month. Source of data is this Department's local office report.

2/ Puerto Ricans under contract to Maryland employers. These workers are also included in the interstate total (column V).

Table IV-d

Western Area 3-24-04

Employment of Seasonal Hired Workers
In Agriculture and Agricultural Placements 1/
By Month, 1973

Period	Agricultural Employment					Total Agricultural Placements
	Total	Local	Intra-state	Inter-state	Puerto Rican	
I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
January	0	0	0	0	0	2
February	0	0	0	0	0	18
March	100	100	0	0	0	7
April	0	0	0	0	0	3
May	95	95	0	0	0	55
June	60	60	0	0	0	119
July	75	75	0	0	0	2
August	140	55	0	85	0	401
September	340	95	0	245	0	3
October	332	80	0	252	0	1
November	45	45	0	0	0	251
December	0	0	0	0	0	3

1/ Seasonal hired workers employed on the last normal workday during the first half of the month. The placements are the totals for each month. Source of data is this Department's local office report.

Table V

Migrant Seasonal Farm Workers Recruited
Through Maryland Clearance Orders 1963-1973

Year	Total	Families	Unattached		Contract Puerto Ricans
			Males	Females	
1963	4,037	585	2,137	470	334
1964	4,560	658	2,141	481	310
1965	5,500	596	1,983	405	285
1966	4,332	512	1,744	427	248
1967	4,551	610	1,837	448	337
1968	4,393	533	1,669	518	185
1969[1]	2,256	291	548	124	436
1970	3,035	412	1,303	234	275
1971	2,436	362	1,056	142	200
1972	1,804	250	917	157	155
1973[2]	1,446[2]	176	847	100	238

1/ Data does not include 1,600 free wheeling migrant seasonal workers.

2/ Data does not include 133 free wheeling migrant seasonal workers.

Table VI

Interstate Migrant Housing By County 1973

County	Number Approved
Eastern Shore Area 3-24-01:	
Dorchester	25
Kent and Queen Anne's	7
Somerset	2
Caroline and Talbot	15
Cecil	1
Wicomico	2
Worcester	4
Southern Area 3-24-02:	
Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, Saint Mary's --	1
Central Area 3-24-03:	
Carroll and Howard	1
Frederick	1
Harford	1
Western Area 3-24-04:	
Washington	17

Table VII

Crop Acreage and Production, 1973 And Expected Crop Acreage, 1974

Crops	1973 Acres Planted	1973 Acres Harvested	1973 Average Production Per Acre	Expected Crop Acreage 1974
Vegetables:				
Asparagus	4,500	4,500	2,900 lbs.	4,250
Cucumber	2,150	2,150	300 bus.	2,175
Green pea	3,050	3,000	1.5 tons	3,150
Lima bean	300	300	1.2 tons	300
Pepper	250	200	1,500 lbs.	200
Stringbean	7,100	7,100	2.0 tons	7,100
Sweet corn	11,800	11,600	3.5 tons	11,500
Sweet potato	900	900	550 bus.	1,000
Tomato - globe	4,250	4,250	14 tons	4,400
Tomato - Italian	50	50	N.A.	50
White potato	250	250	5,400 lbs.	300
Fruits and Melons:				
Apple	7,050	6,750	330 bus.	7,300
Blueberry	100	100	2,500 qts.	100
Cherry	50	50	2.8 tons	50
Peach	2,650	2,350	240 bus.	2,850
Strawberry	500	450	2,500 qts.	460
Watermelon & Cantaloupe	1,000	1,000	1,000 melons	1,000
Tobacco:	25,050	24,050	1,100 lbs.	26,050

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Table VIII

Maryland State

Expected Use of Seasonal Hired Workers in Agriculture 1/
By Month, 1974

Period	Expected Employment			Expected Surplus	Expected Shortages
	Total	Local	Non-Local		
I	II	III	IV	V	VI
January	925	925	0	55	0
February	985	960	25	40	0
March	1270	1195	75	40	0
April	1980	1300	680	70	0
May	2930	2195	735	45	0
June	4638	3725	913	0	90
July	6448	4643	1805(30) 2/	0	140
August	9103	6610	2493(60)	0	290
September	6850	4680	2170(200)	0	190
October	3350	2010	740(200)	0	10
November	1545	1435	110	85	0
December	1075	1050	25	85	0

1/ Seasonal hired workers expected to be employed on the last normal workday during the first half of the month.

2/ Figures in parenthesis represents the number of foreign workers expected to be employed in Maryland if orchardist experience difficulties in securing sufficient interstate workers for fruit harvest as they did during 1973.

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Table VIII-a

Eastern Shore Area (3-24-01)

Expected Use of Seasonal Hired Workers in Agriculture 1/
By Month, 1974

Period	Expected Employment			Expected Surplus	Expected Shortages
	Total	Local	Non-Local		
I	II	III	IV	V	VI
January	365	365	0	85	0
February	385	360	25	80	0
March	660	585	75	70	0
April	1440	785	655	70	0
May	2040	1335	705	45	0
June	3383	2510	873	0	90
July	4728	3138	1590	0	90
August	4643	2940	1703	0	90
September	3060	1805	1255	0	90
October	1600	1265	335	40	50
November	790	725	65	85	0
December	575	550	25	85	0

1/ Seasonal hired workers expected to be employed on the last normal workday during the first half of the month.

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Table VIII-b

Southern Area (3-24-02)

Expected Use of Seasonal Hired Workers in Agriculture 1/
By Months, 1974

Period	Expected Employment			Expected Surplus	Expected Shortages
	Total	Local	Non-Local		
I	II	III	IV	V	VI
January	540	540	0	0	30
February	580	580	0	0	40
March	560	560	0	0	30
April	360	360	0	0	0
May	420	420	0	0	0
June	430	430	0	0	0
July	410	300	110	0	50
August	2,600	2000	600	0	200
September	1,900	1400	500	0	100
October	500	500	0	0	0
November	450	450	0	0	0
December	500	500	0	0	0

1/ Seasonal hired workers expected to be employed on the last normal workday during the first half of the month.

Table VIII-c

Central Area 3-24-03

Expected Use of Seasonal Hired Workers in Agriculture 1/
By Month, 1974

Period	Expected Employment			Expected Surplus	Expected Shortages
	Total	Local	Non-Local		
I	II	III	IV	V	VI
January	0	0	0	0	0
February	0	0	0	0	0
March	20	20	0	0	0
April	130	105	25	0	0
May	360	330	30	0	0
June	605	565	40	0	0
July	1085	1045	40	0	0
August	1520	1480	40	0	0
September	1340	1275	65	0	0
October	700	645	55	0	0
November	235	190	45	0	0
December	0	0	0	0	0

1/ Seasonal hired workers expected to be employed on the last normal workday during the first half of the month.

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Table VIII-d

Western Area (3-24-04)

Expected Use of Seasonal Hired Workers in Agriculture 1/
By Month, 1974

Period	Expected Employment			Surplus	Shortages
	Total	Local	Non-Local 2/		
I	II	III	IV	V	VI
January	20	20	0	0	0
February	20	20	0	0	0
March	30	30	0	0	0
April	50	50	0	0	0
May	110	110	0	0	0
June	220	220	0	0	0
July	225	160	65(30)	0	0
August	340	190	150(60)	0	0
September	550	200	350(200)	0	0
October	550	200	358(200)	0	0
November	70	70	0	0	0
December	0	0	0	0	0

1/ Seasonal hired workers expected to be employed on the last normal workday during the first half of the month.

2/ Figures in parenthesis represents the number of foreign workers expected to be employed in Maryland if orchardist experience difficulties in securing interstate workers for fruit harvest as they did during the 1973 harvest.

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The local press was a most effective medium in informing the public of crop, labor and market conditions.

Wary state farmers expect a bountiful fall

By TOM HORTON

With fingers crossed and an eye on the weather, Maryland crop farmers, like members of a ball club nearing the pennant, are heading into the stretch of the season with great expectations.

Their enthusiasm is tempered by knowing that they play in a tough league and there is still time for bad luck to strike. But from Eastern Shore truck farms to the large corn acreages of central Maryland, the forces of agriculture this year seem to have a comfortable lead.

Corn and soybeans whose combined acreage planted in the state would be enough to cover 80 per cent of the Chesapeake Bay, appear headed for good to excellent yields

Grain prices meanwhile, are setting records every week, with no end in sight Projected prices for this year's corn, which will be harvested in Maryland beginning later this month, are around $3 a bushel, 2½ times last year's figure.

For soybeans, the increase in the last year has been from slightly more than $3 a bushel to current projections of $7 to $8 a bushel.

John L. Crothers, an agricultural economist at the University of Maryland, last week said that although a bumper grain crop nationwide could possibly knock those estimates down somewhat, "demand here and abroad is so heavy, it doesn't seem like they [corn and soybean prices] can fall much."

Grain growers point out that there are two factors, not as visible to the public as skyrocketing crop prices, which can reduce considerably the size of the farmer's windfall.

Many farmers contract with large grain dealers or feed mills to sell as much as 30 to 50 per cent of their harvest before it is even planted.

"People around here never dreamed the prices on these soybeans would go to $7.50," said William E. Toadvine, who farms about 700 acres in Wicomico county. He contracted several months ago to sell a portion of his crop at $5.25 a bushel, which at the time seemed like a good profit.

Several large grain dealers on the Eastern Shore last week estimated that nearly one-third of the DelMarVa Peninsula's huge acreage of soybeans had already been contracted from farmers at $4 to $6 a bushel.

A second worry of grain producers is the threat of a shortage of LP (liquid propane) gas, essential for use in drying their grain so it can be stored without rotting.

Corn, for example, must be reduced to about 14 per cent moisture before it can be stored safely. It is normally harvested at around 30 per cent. When a farmer sells it to a grain dealer, he is docked from 2 to 5 cents a bushel for every percentage point over the 14 per cent standard.

Y. D. Hance, Maryland secretary of agriculture, last week said that supplies of gas for grain drying should be adequate, until October 31, when winter house heating begins to tax supplies. The drying season, say grain handlers, normally runs a month after that, with soybeans harvested into October.

According to Mr. Crothers, the whole problem of drying grain is partially a product of progress.

"Before the modern combine harvester, which shells the corn as it picks, came into its own in the mid '60's," he said, "corn was picked on the cob and much of it put in open air cribs where it dried naturally before being shelled."

"In a bad moisture year, a man might be smart to look into firing up his old fashioned corn picker and building some corn cribs," he said.

Sweetcorn threatens to become almost nonexistent in the near future, although not due to labor problems. Acreage has dropped to 16,500 in 1972 from 28,500 in 1965. The reason, said Mr. Crothers, is simply that sweet corn does not grow all that well or profitably in Maryland.

"You must get about 5 tons yield to the acre to make good money," he explained, "Maryland farmers get three or less." Experiments are under way at College Park to improve the present varieties.

Tobacco, although small in total acreage (26,000) compared to corn (around 600,000) and soybeans (about 280,000), ranks close to them as a leading cash crop with a value of more than $23 million last year.

The harvest, according to Mr. Hance, who farms 15 acres of tobacco (7-to-10 acres is an average tobacco farm in Maryland), promises to be "decent, though not a record setter." Prices, for the fourth straight year are expected to be excellent, he said.

A sizable portion of the "Maryland Type 32" tobacco produced almost entirely in the state's southern counties is exported to Switzerland, where it comprises 80 per cent of the blend in several brands of cigarettes marketed there.

The main concern of Maryland tobacco growers currently is a move by growers in states to the south to begin growing the Type 32 leaf, until now the exclusive product of this state. Maryland producers have asked Congress to prevent the raising of "Maryland" tobacco in these states.

On the fruit and vegetable front, from cucumbers to peaches, farmers report plentiful crops. Prices are up slightly from last year for most produce. The real problem, they say, is how to pick them all, or more specifically, how to pick them all in time.

Several factors, including increased unemployment compensation at home and jobs created by Disney World, have contributed to a critical shortage of Florida migrant laborers, who traditionally follow Maryland's crops, picking early tomatoes and cucumbers in June on the Shore and finishing up on apples in Washington county in the fall.

Last year, apple growers lost an estimated $300,000 because they did not have enough labor to pick their fruit in time to market it fresh. This year in desperation they have applied to the government for permits to import foreign labor.

On the Eastern Shore, where a bumper crop of cucumbers was harvested, labor could not keep up with the demands of the huge harvest, causing many of the cucumbers to grow too large for optimum grade and price before they could be picked.

Many state graders reported less than 50 per cent of the cucumbers fell into the preferred No. 1, or small, size category, compared to 90 per cent in other years.

In Caroline county, for the first time, several automatic tomato picking machines are being tried. It is a move, which growers there say may not save that much money but is necessary if the labor-short industry in Maryland is to survive at all.

In Kent county, where harvested corn fields may be rented each winter to goose hunters for prices up to several thousand dollars, it is the tightening game laws, not bushels to the acre, that most concern some farmers.

"A farmer who rents his field can conceivably be implicated if the hunter is arrested for illegal baiting," said T. Allen Stradley, Maryland Farm Bureau president and a Kent county corn farmer. "Now that the government has started giving out jail sentences for offenses, it has got people around here scared," he said.

Despite good profits already made on several crops and hopes of greater things to come in the next months, individual farmers, for the most part, remains cautious in their talk.

They have dealt too long, they say, with the vagaries of weather, insects, and economics to do otherwise.

"People also forget sometimes," said Louis Holland, a long-time crop inspector for the state, "that just like any other business, you have good farmers and sorry farmers. In a great year, you can always find somebody losing money, and just the opposite for a bad year.

"Any how," Mr. Holland asked, "how many people do you know in any profession who will stand up and say "I'm making money hand over fist?' Even a doctor won't tell you that."

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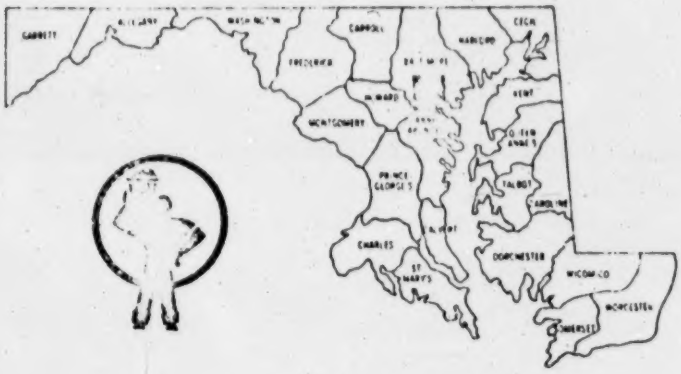

Farm Labor Bulletin

Weekly publications of the Farm Labor Bulletin were instrumental in informing the agricultural community of crop and farm labor conditions in the State and the different agricultural areas.

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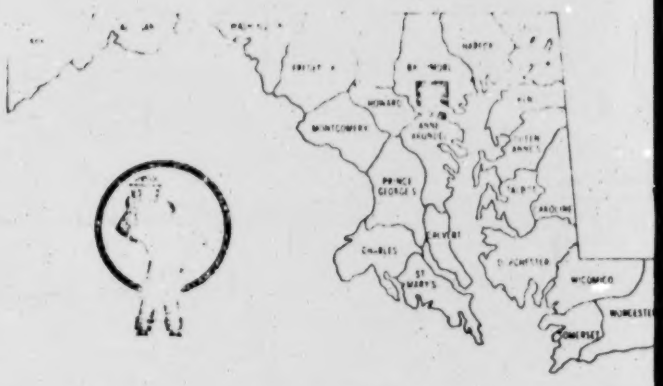

MARYLAND STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE — T. M. KREMER, FARM PLACEMENT SUPERVI

VOLUME XVIII, NO. 4 — MAY 11, 1973

STATE SUMMARY: Labor is adequate. Rains have slowed some field activities but has not completely stopped all functions. Hoeing vegetables on the Shore is the biggest demand crops this week.

Workers Involved: Local - 1364
Interstate - 136
Puerto Rican - 819

EASTERN SHORE: All crops progressing. Hoeing vegetables, picking strawberries and asparagus cutting are putting the biggest demand on labor.

Workers Involved: Local - 993
Interstate - 101
Puerto Rican - 800

CENTRAL AREA: Weather and moisture has slowed field activity but has not caused underemployment.

Workers Involved: Local - 283
Interstate - 35
Puerto Rican - 19

WESTERN AREA: Pruning fruit trees and asparagus cutting is the main activity. Labor is adequate.

Workers Involved: Local - 70
Interstate - 0
Puerto Rican - 0

SOUTHERN AREA: Tobacco transplanting is the major activity here. Labor supply adequate now.

Workers Involved: Local - 18
Interstate - 0
Puerto Rican - 0

Form ESA 850
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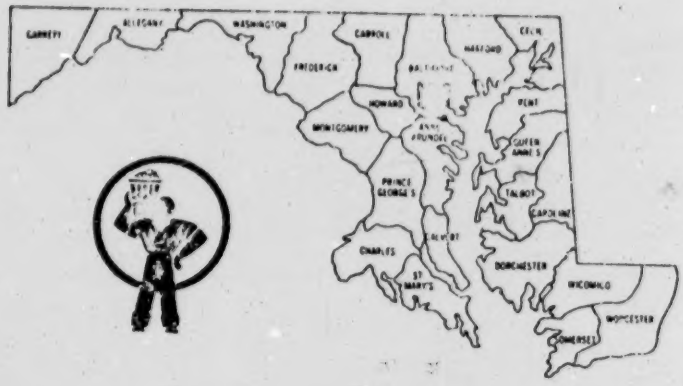

ARYLAND STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

T. M. KREMER, FARM PLACEMENT SUPERVISOR

VOLUME XVIII, NO. 5

JUNE 18, 1973

STATE SUMMARY: Labor supply and demand are generally in balance except Salisbury reports the supply is being strained since snapbeans came on early and heavy. Hot humid weather is helping all crops.

Workers in Area: Local - 1891
Interstate - 134
Puerto Rican - 750

EASTERN SHORE: Hot humid weather is helping all crops. Salisbury reports a shortage of labor due to snapbeans coming on with heavy yields and maturing almost a week early.

Workers in Area: Local - 1451
Interstate - 102
Puerto Rican - 734

CENTRAL AREA: Labor supply and demand are in balance. Weed control appears to be the biggest problem now.

Workers in Area: Local - 342
Interstate - 32
Puerto Rican - 16

ESTERN AREA: Hay, fruit tree pruning and snapbean planting is putting the iggest demand on labor, which is adequate for this reporting period.

Workers in Area: Local - 80
Interstate - 0
Puerto Rican - 0

UTHERN AREA: Labor supply and demand are in balance for tobacco transplanting ich is the present seasonal function for this area.

Workers in Area: Local-18
Interstate - 0
Puerto Rican - 0

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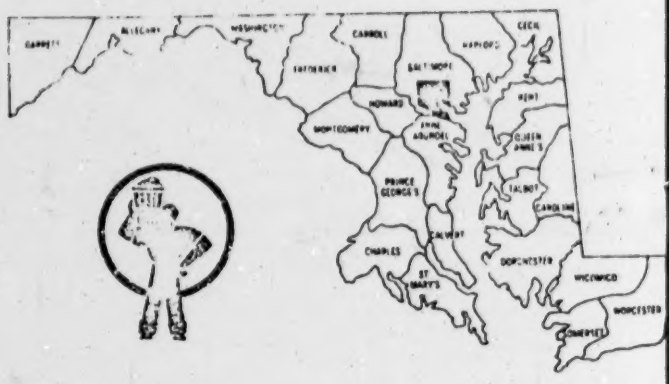

MARYLAND STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

T. M. KREMER, FARM PLACEMENT SUPERVIS

VOLUME XVIII, NO. 6

JULY 3, 1973

STATE SUMMARY: Seasonal work force adequate for present activity. Have been using mostly local labor. Interstate crews are beginning to move into the Eastern Shore area for the vegetable crop harvest. Weather conditions have been normal throughout most of the State. Some 3300 seasonal employed during past week; 3100 local workers and 200 interstate and Contract Puerto Ricans.

EASTERN SHORE: Harvest of vegetable crops on up swing. Snap bean and pickle harvest using majority of work force. Normal weather conditions prevailed over most of the area. Approximately 2800 workers employed in the seasonal activity. 2650 local workers and 150 interstate workers. Work force will be adequate as interstate workers move into the area.

WESTERN AREA: Majority seasonal activity in this area is pruning in orchards and general preparation for fruit harvest. Most growers are revising their original estimates of both peach and apple crops upward. Light set will produce larger fruit partially off setting the reduction in numbers. Some 80 local people employed on peak days.

CENTRAL AREA: Labor in balance with demand. Improved weather conditions have activities back on schedule. Some 350 workers employed in seasonal activities; 300 locals and 50 interstate and Contract Puerto Ricans.

SOUTHERN AREA: Transplanting of tobacco just about completed. Labor in balance to meet current needs. Approximately 25 local workers employed in seasonal activity.